

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A particle in which the core comprises at least one biodegradable organosoluble polymer, characterized in that it is partially or entirely surface-coated with a hyaluronan-based coating composition consisting of at least one hyaluronan or one of its derivatives, said hyaluronan being a water-soluble amphiphilic hyaluronan, carboxylic functions of which are in part converted so as to form hydrophobic groups, wherein the hydrophobic groups are anchored and extend at least in part in the polymeric core of the particle.

2. (Previously Presented) The particle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hydrophobic groups are attached to the hyaluronan by means of ester and/or amide functions.

3. (Previously Presented) The particle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carboxylic functions are in part esterified with at least one group chosen from linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated alkyl chains.

4. (Previously Presented) The particle as claimed in claim 3, wherein the alkyl chains have a number of carbon atoms greater than 5.

5. (Previously Presented) The particle as claimed in claim 4, wherein the alkyl chains have a number of carbon atoms ranging from 15 to 20 and the degree of esterification is at most 15%.

6. (Previously Presented) The particle as claimed in claim 5, wherein the hyaluronan is esterified with an alkyl chain having 18 carbon atoms.

7. (Previously Presented) The particle as claimed in claim 6, wherein the degree of esterification is less than 7%.

8. (Withdrawn) The particle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the alkyl chains have a number of carbon atoms ranging from 10 to 14 and the degree of esterification is greater than or equal to 25%.

9. (Previously Presented) The particle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the biodegradable organosoluble polymer is, or is derived from; a synthetic biodegradable polymer.

10. (Previously Presented) The particle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the biodegradable organosoluble polymer is a polymer chosen from polyesters such as poly(lactic acid), poly(glycolic acid) or poly(ϵ -caprolactone), polyanhydrides, poly(alkyl cyanoacrylates), polyorthoesters, poly(alkylene tartrate), polyphosphazenes, polyamino acids, polyamidoamines, polycarbonate, poly(methylenemalonate), polysiloxane, polyhydroxybutyrate or poly(malic acid), and their copolymers or derivatives.

11. (Previously Presented) The particle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the biodegradable organosoluble polymer is chosen from poly(lactic acid), poly(glycolic acid), poly(caprolactone) and their copolymers.

12. (Previously Presented) The particle as claimed in claim 1, further comprising at least one biological or synthetic active substance, wherein the at least one biological or synthetic active substance is encapsulated within the polymer core.

13. (Currently Amended) The particle as claimed in claim 12, wherein the encapsulated active substance is at least one biological substance chosen from peptides, proteins, carbohydrates, nucleic acids, lipids, polysaccharides, antigens, enzymes, hormones, receptors, vitamins, matricial components such as, for example, glycosaminoglycans, biological factors involved in the process of regeneration and/or protection of cartilage, in arthritis, and mixtures thereof.

14. (Previously Presented) The particle as claimed in claim 13, wherein the encapsulated active substance is chosen from glucosamine, hyaluronic acid, chondroitin sulfate and mixtures thereof.

15. (Previously Presented) The particle as claimed in claim 12, wherein the active substance is at least one synthetic medicinal product, chosen from anti-inflammatory compounds, anesthetics, chemotherapeutic agents, immunotoxins, immunosuppressants, steroids, antibiotics, antiviral agents, antifungal agents, antiparasitic agents, immunizing substances, immunomodulators and analgesics.

16. (Previously Presented) The particle as claimed in claim 1, further comprising up to 95% by weight of an active substance.

17. (Previously Presented) The particle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the particle has a size ranging from 50 nm to 600 μm .

18. (Previously Presented) The particle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the particle is a nanoparticle.

19. (Original) The particle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the particle is a microparticle.

20. (Previously Presented) The particle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the particle is obtained by the emulsion/solvent evaporation technique using, as emulsion stabilizing agent, at least said amphiphilic hyaluronan.

21. (Withdrawn) A biological vector, comprising at least particles as claimed in claim 1.

22. (Withdrawn) An encapsulated material comprising the particles as claimed in claim 1 encapsulating at least one active substance.

23. (Withdrawn) A composition intended for the treatment of arthrosis comprising the particles as claimed in claim 1.

24. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition or diagnostic composition comprising at least particles as claimed in claim 1, where appropriate combined with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable and compatible carrier.

25–27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The particle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the biodegradable organosoluble polymer is, or derived from, a natural biodegradable polymer.

29. (Previously Presented) The particle as claimed in claim 3, wherein the alkyl chains are interrupted with one or more hetero atoms and/or are substituted with an aromatic ring and oligomers that derive from α -hydroxy acids.

30. (Previously Presented) The particle as claimed in ~~claim 6~~ claim 4, wherein the alkyl chains have a number of carbon atoms greater than 10.

31. (Previously Presented) The particle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the particle has a size ranging from 80 nm to 230 μ m.

32. (Previously Presented) A particle in which the core comprises at least one biodegradable organosoluble polymer, characterized in that it is partially or entirely surface-coated with at least one hyaluronan or with one of its derivatives, said hyaluronan being a water-soluble amphiphilic hyaluronan, carboxylic functions of which are in part converted so as to form hydrophobic groups, wherein the hydrophobic groups are anchored and extend at least in part in the polymeric core of the particle during the ~~formulation~~ formation of the particle, without involving any covalent or ionic bond.

33. (New) The particle as claimed in claim 13, wherein the matricial components are selected from the group consisting of glycosaminoglycans and biological factors involved in the process of regeneration and/or protection of cartilage.